



**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Thank you Brian for getting us started here. We did have a bunch of questions come in on Twitter which we can work into the program and I'll make sure everyone can see my screen.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Yes, they can. Because I can.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Ok great. For those who don't know I'm Phil Jackson an e-commerce evangelist at Something Digital and I'm working on the business development team with Brian Lange. Why don't you introduce yourself?

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Yes, I am the director of West Coast team here at Something Digital and happy to be on our second episode of SD office hours and excited about some of the questions that are coming in.

So Phillip why don't you pull up some of these questions and we can get started.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Well before we get into that why don't we do this. And let's set the sort of precedent of what we'd like to do with this is to answer any questions any kind of questions you might have across full range spectrum as you might know Something Digital is A Magento Enterprise Solution partner and we have been for the last eight going on nine years and we've built a lot of websites and ecommerce, digital commerce experiences for some of the largest brands in the world. And so we're very familiar with Magento 1 and 2. And happy to answer any questions you might have about either of those platforms. A lot of questions sort of range across disciplines today as well the ones that we had on Twitter so I'd love to be able to get into those a little bit and anything that comes up stream of conscious as well. So yeah. Great. So the first question that we received and that came in today is what is a good point of sale solution for merchants small to mid-size using Magento. And that question comes to us courtesy of Twitter from Tarandeep. And thank you Taran for that question. I'm going to give out a recommendation for a particular point of sale solution and I'm happy for Brian to jump in and get his recommendation as well. One that we hear a lot about and we've worked a little bit with that's worked for the smaller mid-sized companies that are on Magento 1 in particular right now. And I don't know intimately about Magento 2 but Teamwork Retail is a company that has a great presence in the mobile point of sale realm. So I'm actually pulling up the website here and we can see if I can pop it up over here so you guys can see. Well I guess it's not so easy to do that online. There's a trick to these Mac books. I haven't figured them out yet. Here we go, can you see my screen?

So teamwork retail, it sort of runs the gamut from point a sale on CRM to inventory and all that good stuff. But teamwork is working with a lot of existing Magento 1 sites. In fact, one of them is right there on the home page catbird is actually Magento 2. Catbird was not built by Something Digital but we are aware of it. So as I see Magento 2 build and so catbird is based in New York City they've been working with teamwork retail and they seem to have and a lot of our clients as well seem to have a lot of success with it. Teamwork has partnered with Apple to my knowledge as being sort of the premier mobile point of sale on iOS and they're doing everything from brick and mortar point of sale to pop up shops to actually you know helping you just run your back office for those that aren't even using the point of sale they're just using the CRM and inventory. So lots of interesting things there and that would be my recommendation. Brian any thoughts.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Yeah I mean there's a lot of opportunities here. Point of sale you know is it's a pretty broad set of businesses out there. And so a couple that I really like are Tulip, a startup out of Canada. And so this is when I haven't used yet but Springboard Retail is another one and then the most obvious one I believe is the oh my gosh how am I spacing on this one right now.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

The one that Magento endorses. Magento's point of sale is, that is by not ecommdev. I always forget who this is, ebizmart! Yeah so ebizmart POS that's also an iOS point of sale with the you know all kinds of interesting tie-ins to Magento there. We've actually we have some experience with ebizmart POS and I definitely would recommend you to check it out. Our customers especially on Magento 1 space. It looked like if you have any realm of customization or large scale customization or you have an interesting sort of architecture to your product catalog. You might want to dive deep into this one because the customizability can I think can get pretty in-depth and may require some extensive customization to make it fit. But we saw some merchants have some decent success on ebizmart point of sale, so there you go. So you asked for one recommendation and we're giving you four. Brian recommends Tulip Retail also Springboard which we aren't really as familiar with. We both have some experience with ebizmart. Me and for the most part Something Digital on the Magento 1 side and then we're having some customers with a lot of interest and success with Teamwork Retail as well. So there you go there is four for you to check out.

And so we'll move onto the next question. If I can figure out how to be nice if I could just figure out one of these days how to just you know logos work and stuff like that. For crying out loud. OK. So the second question. This one basically let's see if I can decipher the Twitter shortening here. Effectively the question is what is the preferred method for debugging performance issues in Magento and if there's a cheap or free or inexpensive way this comes from Tarrasued via Twitter. And actually it's effectively what's the best way to you know audit Magento code for performance without using something like new relic that's effectively what's being asked. So Magento actually has integration in their Magento cloud product with two different packages. One is with new relic which we highly recommend. By the way a new relic doesn't have to be expensive. There are smaller packages you just don't get the same data retention and obviously you don't get the full policy of the full product at the lower packages. They have in the past I don't know if they still offer it but they have in the past offered a 30-day free trial. So if you're you know running right up against an issue maybe you could use it specifically just to try to find the insights that you like and then maybe based on that experience maybe your management team decides it's worth it to spend the money on. So we personally at something digital we use New Relic however, there is a product called Blackfire. Which is what they

call continuous performance testing and I'll see if I can pull up the site here. I will figure this out one day. I know I will. Well here we go. So Blackfire is actually really interesting. So it actually does this sort of de-bug that if you're a developer you might be looking for, it's sort of the line by line you know deep sort of performance analysis and performance testing. They also call it performance management automation. So you get the testing and the comparisons are like over time. A lot like New Relic you're going to be able to see and create dashboards and. There's a free-ish version if you're using Magento 1 or 2. It works very well. There's a free version that you can run. I believe you can even run it you know on local code which makes it really helpful. From what I've seen we've only used this very very lightly. Let's see. Where is the free hack version. Here it is, hack for free. So you can create a free account and use Blackfire specifically for it. That's really it's really powerful. You know in Magento 1 there's actually the Magento in-built performance profiler is really decent. I can show you where some of the buttons are. You can also use something called CacheGrind which you can generate with you know a whole host of tools that can be generated with something called Xdebug on your actual production server. We have used in the past various you know tools to analyze the CacheGrind files. But in general if you're looking for a tool that's free and as comparable to a New Relic with getting some results backfires probably the way to go. Any thoughts about that one Brian?

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Yeah I think you covered it. You know Blackfire does have a set of tools that are complimentary to New Relic. So I wouldn't say that it really replaces New Relic. And then in general you know if you're just looking to optimize your code there are codesniffers out there. I think EGI has their own codesniffers. This is obviously not related to what you're talking about but there are some you know different frameworks you can run against your code base that will help with performance. But for monitoring New Relic is really the standard by far and is a nice compliment to that.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Yeah great. Little bit hard to hear you there Brian but yeah Blackfire and New Relic can work in tandem. There is some overlap on the product feature side. So let's see here we have other questions. So there's a question from Twitter as well from Kedy. Kedy asks what is multi-warehouse and inventory scenarios like store pickup availability, buy online, et cetera. So actually this is sort of a prescient topic because this comes up more and more. I'll lob it over to you Brian while I queue up a couple of things on my side. What is a solution for a multi-warehouse and inventory in Magento?

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Yeah so I believe Shipwire offers a pretty cool solution around that actually. I mean I think maybe we need a little more definition around the question. Are we talking about full on warehouse management?

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

It's doubtful. You know because they I don't know it's 140 characters it's hard to define. Why don't we give them a few different options.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Yeah. So Shipwire is a good if you're going to go like full on inventory management. That is great and it has someone manage all your third party logistics. But another interesting solution, if you're looking for

something for the SMB market a combination that I really like that can kind of get you there for a really low budget is to combine Freestyle Solutions plus ShipStation. I've found that if you if you combine those two tools you actually get the level of functionality that you need to order to manage for warehouses and your stock. Also if you're if you're looking at you know a full on omni channel solution then Magento has their own product as well. Their OMS solution. So that's that's probably like if you're you know in the right range that's probably the first thing that I would recommend if you're below that I would kind of maybe attempt to use the Freestyle Solution plus ShipStation then you know above that if you want to buy it although I would probably still recommend Magento if you're on Magento then I would still recommend it. But there's something called Manhattan that's going to be for your enterprise retailers but at the very high end.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Yea like global Fortune 500 retail sort of solution. But I think you know I think Brian's right it really depends on the fitness and the requirements if you're looking specifically for, if all you're looking for is to manage stock. Let's say that at the lowest level ever that I could possibly think of that you might need to manage stock in an interactive. So let's say that you have a whole warehouse in the European Union, warehouse in APAC and a warehouse that fulfills for North Central and South America well then you likely already in Magento have stores or websites that are defined to service those particular regions. The challenge here is that stock is a single value. It is how do we manage stock at a different scope. And so there's a bunch of ways to do it in a Magento 1 world. But back in the day there was a product called multi-location inventory that was free from Demac and this allowed you to at least manage your multiple location and skus to have differentiating inventories at different stores. There is an extension by a company called iTalk which is in the past sort of had a bad reputation associated with it. I have no direct experience with this particular module but this iTalk module is effectively you know the only one available.

For Magento 2 and up which as multi-warehouse inventory which is a little bit of a bigger. So you can actually manage warehouses and create warehouses and then associate stores and Websites to a particular warehouse that it depletes intelligently from those warehouse which is interesting. Magento is actually creating a core product called MSI or multi-site inventory and MSI is still in development by the Magento community engineering team. It is actively being dev'd as we speak. Last update was five days ago and so speaking to the community engineering team this is something that they're driving forward through Magento's community actually develop features for Magento 2. This will be in a similar vein to where you're managing warehouses through an interface in Magento and the management of those warehouses would then be tied to a store view or website to deplete the inventory from the warehouse by that level. So what what you might want to do that's the next level above that. Not every time not every product that you have is fulfilled out of every warehouse in one region. So fulfillment in your organization to a warehouse that serves either sub regions like you know East Coast, West Coast in the United States or Canada versus US in North America or even something more granular than that. It might even be that you can reduce shipping times based on rules by fulfilling from a warehouse closer to the recipient of the product than the person who ordered the product. So there's rules that you might want to create that are less static than just if it's from there fulfill from this warehouse and that's where MCOM comes in, I'm sorry I'm used to calling it MCOM, Magento Order Management let's just call it MOM. That's where MOM comes in. Magento Order Management allows you to you know create the really deep sets. That helps you you know manage that and your business and it's well beyond just a warehouse management in order routing tool for fulfillment. It is you know a full solution for order management processing including a payments

platform and you know like 100 other things and it is functionally a separate product with a lot of really high end enterprise solutions that are into it. So that's really that.

I see there a lot of people have joined a just want to make sure that and remind you all that you can actually ask your questions in a Q&A box on the Zoom control panel so make sure you hit the Q&A button and submit your questions. We can answer them here live. Really quick so we also had a question on Twitter. And Brian this is sort of another one of those things that just happened today. So I don't know if we have any value but there was a question on Twitter about Magento extending support for existing Magento 1 being extended beyond the 2018 deadline which was you know actively curtailed at some point. Do we have any additional information on that that we can share?

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Yeah that's extended out through 2020.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Yeah. So that's good. June 2020. Yeah June 2020. So you want to give a little bit of color to that. Or should I.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Yes, so I think you know Magento pretty much came out and said look we're not trying to force you off of your platform. You know we're trying to make sure that you have enough space so that's why we're going to support this and not leave anyone in the dust. I think encouraging an upgrade and I think that you know it is worth upgrading to Magento 2. Companies that just finished their build on Magento 1 before Magento 2 was released. They had just gone live, it makes a lot of sense to get some benefit out of that before upgrading to 2 and I think that's pretty much the reasoning behind that is they want to make sure that their customers are being well served and that no one's getting stuck in spot where they feel like they're you know without support or you know without any options. There's also a lot of Magento sites and so I'm it's still one of the largest providers of e-commerce. It's one of the largest e-commerce solutions out there and so. But even in this large of an ecosystem is not big enough to handle the volume of upgrades that were going to come through the pipe if they closed support in 2018. So I think that they just wanted to make sure no one was in a position where they couldn't be upgraded. And they were going to lose support. So I liked the move I like that it provides customers with with you know everything that they need to move forward.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Yeah I can actually take it over because you're cutting in and out there Brian. So Karen actually thank you for your question. So Karen asked and this is actually a fantastic question. So Karen says I have graphics on my website and in responsive design when those graphics shrink that text in those graphics get blurry. Do you have any recommendations for Image type or formatting to improve the look of these graphics when not being viewed at full desktop resolution. So thank you for your question. Great question. And we do we actually have some really kind of awesome approaches to this. So I'm actually going to pull something up real quick here. See if I can do this. OK. So we have a Magento demo site for somethingdigital.com which is just the default Magento Luna and you'll see that instead of including the text in the graphic in some instances they include the text as actual text that I can actually select the copy. This is HTML text. And whoops I accidentally clicked it on. That HTML text can then be controlled very granularly to sort of reflow and resize. Of course Luma has a

problem with the homepage which you may not know but you're now finding out. So you can see how this text resizes and it's not just this top banner area it actually happens just about everywhere here on this homepage where the text is able to respond inside of the image. So a best practice for responsive is that not every image has to contain text inside the image. In fact, we would suggest that for many many reasons you wouldn't want that text inside the image. The first would be plain text on your homepage or really anywhere on your website is more easily crawled by search engines like Google. So instead of having text that is in the image where it can't effectively be crawled for SEO value you're having the text available here. Now a bunch of the pushback we usually receive in making this recommendation is that you can't achieve the same look or feel as you currently have because maybe there might be some difference in fonts or font rendering with web fonts maybe the web font stack that you're looking at doesn't match the exact look for your brand.

And so we you know I would suggest very highly that you look specifically at your website as an extension of your brand and to explore the possibility of including and creating styles that you know to use and utilize web fonts and create a pattern library for your website that are able to use the web fonts instead of those static fonts are included inside of the image. This gives you so much more flexibility. So look at your website as a different extension of your brand that may have more flexibility in expressing the brand that allows for that flexibility to use web fonts. Now you can license some very popular and somewhat more design-y type fonts for the web. We've had clients that do that we have many clients actually who deal in paper products whose whole job is in typeface and typesetting. That's their whole industry depends on that and that can be very expensive. But if it's a particular set of fonts that you're looking to include that's one way to do it. Now there's one caveat which is that the way that this homepage is architected in Magento 2 Luma, it is hand-coded. So this this particular style has to be sort of curated and you have to build these all one off which is not fun especially if you're not a designer and you're just looking to create graphics and promotional or landing pages for your site and you have no coding background. This can be really really hard to do so I understand the need to use graphics. What I would suggest is that if you're using Magento 2 and you have Magento 2 Enterprise or I'm sorry Magento Commerce, that particular product allows you to use Blue Foot CMS which is sort of a precursor to an advanced CMS tool that Magento is releasing in 2.3 which is forthcoming it's not here yet but you can still use the BlueFoot product predecessor.

So what's great about BlueFoot is that we have the ability to control what these sections are called drivers in Blue Foot. We have a fun build out of our own theme called accelerator where we actually have created BlueFoot, a custom BlueFoot widget and that custom blue widget allows us to use Design fonts. This is a particular font in a driver over top of an image. And so you can see that we're able to put this text over top of an image here and BlueFoot allows you to design those landing pages and the layouts of those landing pages without needing to resort to putting the text on top of the image. So I hope that helps. Brian I think was trying to add some additional color so let him ask it this time.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

I was just switching my audio so I could actually talk properly.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

OK great. Thank you. So Karen also provides a little bit of clarification saying it's vector style graphs not graphics. I misread the question so OK. Well that was useful information anyway. So graphs would be something completely different. I mean you know what's interesting about graphs like line charts or

bar charts. They don't all have to be static images, line charts and bar charts can also be expressed through data with some JavaScript libraries. And there are so many of them I couldn't even name a couple off the top of my head but they usually render them as SVG which are vector graphics. Those should not those should resize with no problem and not get fuzzy as they resize. Let me see if there is the one that we might use. I don't know JavaScript SVG chart.

Chartist looks like it's a popular one. And Chartists. Yeah. So this is what they look like. So these responsive charts you know sort of adapt to your screen size and because it's actual SVG. It's still text but it's vector. So hopefully that also helps answer your question. So yeah keep those questions coming in. Happy to continue to answer them.

I do have another question from Twitter and thought I'd throw this out there. So there is somebody who asked a question and sort of complained that more and more sites nowadays are using a technology called web push notifications. Brian have you seen any sites using those HTML web push notifications. Do you use those at all? You subscribe to any web push notifications?

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Yeah. So I wasn't going to bring up push notifications but I do know of a service from a company called Wingify that allows you to do push notifications on your site. It's the same company that builds visual website optimizer. I think it's really reasonably priced for the value good for it. Definitely a tool worth looking into.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

So I think what the question would be is this an anti-pattern or is this just the new pop up of 2017?

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

No I don't think so.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

What do you think they're useful for in ecommerce and Magento?

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

So people can sort of like different notifications around prices or or you know sales or promotions that you know that they may want it's more of an opt-in thing versus in your face thing. The problem with pop-ups of course is you just pretty much hit people at random and they haven't necessarily subscribed to them. The beauty of a notification like this is something that you know that can be more controlled by the user and they can they can feel comfortable subscribing to it.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Yeah and we're seeing a lot of success with them. It's funny because if you look at if you look at most of the marketing automation suites nowadays there it looks like a lot of them are including them. There's a marketing automation suite called Zaius which is fairly new to Magento partner ecosystem and they are touting you know some huge amount of success with people opting-in. But it's specifically when people want to opt-in for things that they want notifications for like shipment notifications right? You can very quickly get yourself into trouble with your customers using push

notifications to let them know about a sale. They need to be targeted and relevant. Like any push notification. So yeah there's a pretty standard fare there.

So that's good. Thank you so much for that question and coming to us on Twitter. OK. Tarandeep is on live here actually asking a question. What are some tips on local development environment for developers and in particular like an IDE that might be free and there's a couple of questions sort of linked to that one to improve productivity of quality of code and performance and Magento 2 on Windows or Whamp. OK. So that is a topic that probably could have a two-hour long answer and a lot of it really has to depend really depends on your preference. It's kind of hard to answer, that is extremely personal and sort of preferential because it comes down to your personal taste. I know a lot of people. Especially here at Something Digital. We have a lot of people that are using PhpStorm. Magento's core team is using PhpStorm. It is not free.

So I'm sorry that's not going to fit your requirement. What's great about PhpStorm is that it a true IDE it does have a 30-day trial so you can sort of try and make sure you like get before you spend money on it. It is an annual fee. It's about \$100. If you're doing work commercially on Magento specifically for you know for your job, then you know you need the right tools for the right job. So I would I would suggest very highly that you look into buying the right tools for the right job. However, there are some great text editors. I personally I like PhpStorm. I think it's very necessary in Magento 2 to have a fully functioning IDE. PhpStorm is basically that. Code completion is absolutely necessary for Magento 2. Magento 1 work you know can be put together as very simple IDE. I know plenty of people that use sublime text with Magento too and you can do see extremely powerful you can install all kinds of packages it's fully open source. It is free as in beer and so it does fit your qualifications. You don't get Intellisense it's you need to put together a lot of plugins to make it work but I know a lot of people at Something Digital who actually use sublime text and they have a lot of success with it. There is Atom Editor and Atom by github, Atom IDE which is now in data. It is effectively the same as sublime text but it's a little bit nicer of a design experience. It has backward compatibility with most of the themes and plugins from sublime. But it's also open source and free. You also can get a lot of Github integration with it because it's from github. So if you're doing a lot of source control with github or git of any kind doesn't just have to do with github you can also use it with you know any other debt repository. I would suggest that you probably could use this as well. And then lastly the one that someone will probably yell at me for not mentioning is Vim which has been around for like 35 years you can tell because the website looks like it was coded 35 years ago. Vimas a text editor, it comes in a variety of means it usually ships with your Linux box but you can also install it with homebrew on Mac. You can also if you hate Vim and you're cursing my name right now, you can also use eMacs. Both of these text editors are basically problematic approaches to text editing in a CLI or in at the command line. So we actually have developers that use Vim in eMacs as their IDE and they're able to accomplish a lot of really intelligent code completion and all that good stuff. So you know there's plenty of ways that you can approach it if it's specifically free that you're looking for there are free options out there but you know at the end of the day you just need the right tool for the right job.

Now the other part of the question was the performance of Magento 2 and developing it locally is pretty bad on Windows. I've actually heard, oh sorry someone else is pinging me on the side reminding me, Magento has their own development environment for running stuff on cross-platform Magento dev box, I think is what it's called. That is that is what it's called. So Magento has its own dev box which would replace whamp for you. Windows Apache, my sequel PHP. Whamp is a single installer. You're asking specifically for Windows. I don't know that this is going to be better performance for you but it is a basically one click download this utilizes something called docker. I wish you would have to

install and set up Docker on Windows is a lot faster than Docker on Mac. Including the file system sharing. Way way faster on Windows. I don't know that it's going to be faster than natives than setting up all those you know runtime to just run on your local computer. We don't use either of these approaches at Something digital for development we use plain old virtual machines with vagrant which run in either Virtual Box, which is now an Oracle product but it's free or commercially we have VMWare fusion for Mac and VMWare. I forget what it is on Windows. But VMWare fusion has a free version for Mac or a paid version and I can't remember the names of their VM workstation I think what it's called where you can't create vm's necessarily but you can use them. So we use this and we pass virtual machines around and we get Magento stood up with all the things that you need especially Magento 2 if you're going to create production infrastructure or production applications you need to test it in production environments so we are able to set up things like varnish which could be a little challenging to set up on your Mac. And all the other things Varnish, RabbitMQ. Redis all those things that actually you know Magento might run in a production environment. We set up and stand up in our virtual machines. We create virtual machines, we create client specific virtual machines and we iterate on those. Vagrant is another technology I mentioned which you might want to look at. Which by Hashi Corp. So if you know Hashi at all they do a sort of enterprise. You know they have a whole host of enterprise tools for cloud orchestration and automation vagrants, one of those it's free. And this allows you to define virtual machines with a text file to say what version or send to us that you want to run what versions of PHP and all the rest that you want to run. And it just builds it on the fly for you. And so we'll have a vagrant file that defines all that good stuff so check out all of this stuff and make up your mind what works for you what works best for you. Because you know there is no cookie cutter that fits everybody. As we're all figuring out. So thank you so much. Taran, Tarandeep. I don't really know how to pronounce that but I really do thank you for that question.

And I think we probably have time for one or two more so if you guys have questions go ahead and ask them. I can you know farm a couple more out from Twitter here, in the meantime. Let's see. We answered the point of sale question. We answer the other. Oh. So this was another one of those sort of Business questions. The question was What are we seeing in the Magento 1 to Magento 2 migration rate or how many companies are sort of looking at moving to Magento to too. So I'll throw that one over to Brian.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Phillip before we do that.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Yeah. You're being eaten by a Cylon. When when I'm getting up there here at that moment. So yeah I'll answer that one live.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

Oh we got another live question.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Yeah I heard that. Yeah we all heard. You're just breaking up really bad. Yeah we'll get to the live question. So I was going to I was going to throw one out to you. I do want to answer that Magento 1 to Magento 2 is coming up fast. I mean people are migrating left and right. We have a very steady stream of interest in Magento 2. In fact, I think actually everything that we built in in 2018 or 2017 has been

Magento 2. And so there is a tremendous amount of interest in the community in Magento 2. It is the future of Magento. There's so many things that you can do in Magento 2 that you just cannot do in Magento 1 full stop. And some of the enterprise features make it a game changer I think B2B landing this you know God willing in the next week or two will be the game changer. But you know product staging and preview has been a massive game changer for just basically for everything. It has changed and revolutionized a lot of our merchants' businesses so you know Magento 2 is the future. And so yeah steady stream of interest from Magento 2 and very little people asking about Magento 1.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

At this point. If you're building on Magento 1 it's because you've started a project months ago. Yeah. You know and there's no reason to start a new project on Magento 1 at this point.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Right. I will say very honestly and I think we can speak candidly that you know Magento 2 development has had fits and starts. I mean it is effectively a new platform and with that comes you know some growing pains and Magento has been I will say absolutely stellar at tracking down and fixing issues as they arrive and we're happy to continue to work with them to drive those issues down. If you look at Magento's release rate it's been really frequent both in the security and feature and bug patch realm and so their cadence is extremely high as much as I give them a hard time about wishing that features landed quicker because I want to use them it's sort of selfish. I just want to use new features they are fixing stuff left right and center and their support is better than ever. So I'm really excited about that. Got another question coming in live coming in saying where do we find Magento 2 training or learning material. Magento training is too expensive. Agreed Magento training material is expensive but I think there's a reason for that.

So obviously I think what the question is alluding to is that Magento 2 self-guided training can be expensive if you go to [u.magento.com](http://u.magento.com) and you click on training you'll see options for both self-guided and for in person. The classes can start you know at six, seven hundred dollars and they can go up to multiple thousands of dollars. There's a couple reasons why I could probably explain that away and tell you why it's a worthwhile investment. But if it's free that you're looking for while there are some free options here so I would go and come through and get everything that you can for free from Magento U before you go anywhere else. It is a great place to learn. Magento also you know not for nothing has a much better documentation online than it ever used to and it's actually quite a nice experience to go through. They have site specific documentation or versions specific documentation for Magento 2.1 and 2.2 which is the release candidate at the moment. It's pretty easy to navigate and actually if you're a developer they have actual code level examples and diagrams of how things work. If you're you know if you're looking very specifically at types of development whether it's front end or back end it's actually segmented for you in that way so you want to learn about API there's a whole section of APIs. You're going to have to do some reading if you're going to get into Magento. Just have to work that way. Any other type of content is going to require some investment on your part. So anything with a video or whatnot is going to require a little bit of investment. I have seen training that's available in video on YouTube but it's usually admin panel training and most of the stuff that I saw back in the day was Magento one based not Magento 2 based.

So if you're looking at specifically getting training for Magento 2 I would suggest starting at Dev Docs, that's free. Not free but probably not a terribly expensive option is a company called [magetraining.com](http://magetraining.com). Magetraining.com is run by a gentleman named Derek HARLICK who's out of the

U.K. and he has a well as you just saw the pop up, there's a 42-page guide that he provides for free in trade for an email he does on site, in person agency training and he also has courses that you can do in person. These are not self-guided and video trainings. So I would be aware of that. I believe most of this is all in person. There is an idea that On-Demand is coming but I think that some of the On-Demand stuff still requires like a; these are all Magento 1 actually if you look so you know the on demand stuff is a forthcoming feature but it's likely not to be to the depths and probably not in the Magento 2 realm that you're looking for. So Magetraining is an option. There's another one coming out called Mage2.TV and while I've got it up I'll look for Magento 2 Katas. So there's a YouTube channel called Mage2Katas for developers. This is Vinai Kopp who is a Magento certified trainer and he has 14 videos on you know patterns common patterns in Magento 2. He's also creating a site called Mage2.TV to have a subscription and sort of like Netflix for developers. So that's a million options for you choose from any one of those. I'm sure you'll get get moving there. Going to find a way for this not to pop up all the time. OK. So we've got time for I think one last question because I like long form answers.

So Karen asks I'm very familiar with CSS. I'm an old school aged female expert but I'm not sure I should be messing with my Magento CSS files. What is your advice on the best way to make small design tweaks to custom theme CSS files affordably? OK great question. Thank you for your question. I'm showing you how illiterate I am with using computers and two screens I never use two screens so I'm demonstrating that for you now. OK so there's a couple of things here. The first is you're right you shouldn't be making changes to the Magento CSS files. If from looking here at our demo site, you'll see some CSS defined that sort of included in the header here. Styles one and styles M think are those CSS that we're probably talking about and you know this looks like garbage. It still looks like garbage. So there's a way I can format this. I don't think there is. OK. Well I don't know, we're going to waste time on that. So you shouldn't be editing this file. This file is a core file in the Magento Luma theme. What Magento wants you to do is to use what they call the Blank them and the Magento 2 blank theme. Where is the official doc, here we go.

So they actually tell you what to do and Magento 2 to go forward. Now some of these seem like sort of specific things are very different between Magento 1 and 2. I think the same concept applies. You don't start with the Luma theme out of box. There are components of the Luma theme that will be included by nature like just in the blank theme that kind of give your site structure and body so that you're not having to recreate everything from scratch. But in general you shouldn't be modifying those Magento core files. The reason being that this file right here gets overwritten and an upgrade so the styles CSS styles, M CSS those are files that if Magento makes a change to the Luma theme in an upgrade your changes will be overwritten and they will go away when you upgrade your site and then all your changes are going to be lost you're going to have to go back and figure this out. What is the preferred method is to have an additional CSS file. That is then included after these to make substantive additional changes. It goes into how to do that for Magento 2 on creating a new storefront theme it'll actually tell you how to do it. In declaring the theme, where is the...I love doing stuff live looking for the CSS portion. I mean yeah I would suggest that you just read through this because there's a lot to it. But in general you're declaring and adding a new CSS file. Now that that can be bundled with the you know that blank theme default CSS but my suggestion to you is that you just create and maintain your own for your own custom theme. You know beside that if you're if you're trying to make a change this really holds true if you're making changes of any kind to a theme.

Don't make changes to the theme CSS directly it doesn't matter if it's the Magento default one or the core one or even the blank CSS or even a purchased third party theme. They all suffer from the same

issue which is those changes will get lost in an upgrade so make sure that you're avoiding making changes to that. I want to make sure I didn't miss any of that part of that questioning, I feel like there was a second part. Custom tweaks advice to make small UI tweaks sweat the small UI tweaks. They are effectively those little pieces of CSS that you know might be you know they're there. Let's see. We have a couple of minutes. Here I think they have code Magento in it. They do good. OK. It's committed this way. It's what I'm looking for. View, write in, I'm showing off that I don't know where stuff is in here. It's not where it is and maybe it's in frontend and it's got to be in frontend. I'm sorry. I'm getting all flustered-pated. Design frontend Magento, here's the Luna theme and then it follows the module path. So Magento catalog web CSS source. And then you know you have less and you'll see that actually because it's less it gets combined at build time and actually gets you know all of your modules CSS gets combined together. So these are actually less files and less is how we architect the right CSSA in Magento 2 and so these less files can actually import other files so you can have you can architect it and separate your concerns. So this one happens to be a module less where we're defining like some module level variables that might get used for some conditionals and then we pull in the actual small pieces so you can see they're maintaining smaller pieces rather than one big CSS or one less file they're actually maintaining smaller pieces of less and then pulling them into a larger module.

And that's really about it. I mean that's about as deep as I could go in the time that we have. I would suggest you know sort of a recurring theme today. Pardon the pun for theme but you definitely want to read up the Dev Docs on how to create a team and be very careful about this dropdown as it's burned me in the past. Things change pretty dramatically between Magento minor version to minor version. So if you're working specifically on Magento 2.1 you want to make sure that the Dev Docs that you're looking at the 2.1 version of the dev docs but that's basically all I have to say about that. And we have a whole minute to spare. Mr. Brian sir. You know any parting thoughts now is good.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

I think we've got some big questions and thank you very much everyone for joining today. And Karen said thank you for the answer. You know this is another good session, spread the word.

Tell your friends to come hop on and ask their questions. We're happy to answer them. And feel free to reach out via Twitter or directly to my e-mail address, [blange@somethingdigital.com](mailto:blange@somethingdigital.com) for any questions you may have and we'll try to answer them live on the show. So any time any kind of question just shoot it over.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

Great. Well thank you.

**SPEAKER: BRIAN**

With that I think that's it for today. You know office hours closed.

**SPEAKER: PHILLIP**

We'll see you next time.